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SYNGNATHUS WALCOTTI, A NEW WEST INDIAN PIPEFISH

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We have recently received an interesting pipefish collected in the Virgin Islands by Dr. Alfred R. Whitney, a Life Member of the Museum, which we have been unable to place with any of the numerous species described in the literature, and take pleasure in naming it for Walcott Younger, whose interest in fishes led him to bring the specimen to us from Dr. Whitney.

Syngnathus walcotti, new species

Description of Type.—No. 13685, American Museum of Natural History, from the island of St. John, Virgin Islands, collected January 27, 1937, by Alfred R. Whitney.

Nape broad, elevated, keeled, and snout which is of moderate length and unusually slender, slanting appreciably downward from the line of the body.

Length to base of caudal 143 mm. Head in this length, 7.5; trunk 3.2 1/2; tail, 1.8. Snout in head, 1.8; dorsal base, 1.7. Eye in snout, 4; width, and depth of body, 2; width of nape, 2.7; caudal fin, 2.5. Pectoral base, and length of pectoral in eye, 1; anal, 1.4.

Dorsal rays, 23, on the first 5 caudal, and extending slightly onto the last body ring. Rings 17 + 32.

Ridges at the edges of upper and lower surfaces of the body sharp, the back and the 4 faces of the tail being concave; lateral ventral ridges continuous from throat to caudal, and a median ventral ridge back to next to the last body ring; lateral ridges of the back converge posteriorly and end on the ring before the end of the dorsal fin, they converge anteriorly at the neck, and diverge again to bound the broad rounded, elevated flattish nape, which has a low but well-marked median keel, ending on the first body ring; side with a low median ridge ending under the origin of the dorsal, and under the front end of the lateral dorsal ridge of tail, which here lies about half way between it and the lateral dorsal ridge of trunk; a very slight ridge on front of opercle not continued backward; orbital rim raised and interorbital concave.

Color pale, lightly marked with olive-brown.

Of recently recognized West Indian pipefishes this form most closely resembles *Syngnathus elucens* Poey, and through the courtesy of Mr. John Tee-Van, we have been able to compare specimens of *S. elucens* as recorded from Bermuda by Beebe and Tee-Van, with it. It has a notably longer, more slender snout and smaller mouth. It resembles *Syngnathus acus* Linnaeus (Weber and de Beaufort, 1922, Fishes Indo-Aust. Archip., IV, p. 89, Fig. 37) recognized from the Mediterranean to the East Indies, but has a notably shorter tail and dorsal fin.